

REMARKS

The office action of December 2, 2010, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Ogawa et al. in view of the patent to Verbickas.

Finally, it is noted that claim 2 is allowed and claims 3 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5 and 9.

Applicant has amended claim 3 so that it is in independent form. With this change it is submitted that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Ogawa et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a sheet rolling method and a sheet rolling mill.

The patent to Verbickas discloses a method and apparatus for controlling strip edge relief in a cluster rolling mill.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant submits that the references do not teach

that all of the work rolls and all of the intermediate rolls interact with axial shifting devices, as in the presently claimed invention. In Ogawa et al., only the work rolls 28, 32 interact with axial shifting devices 70a, 70b (see Fig. 2).

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 2, 2011